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ABSTRACT

Covering the academic years 1996-97 and 1997-98, this report focuses on activities of the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) since the 1996-97 review, and includes a response to recommendations that were made in that review. The paper is divided into two parts--Part A: "Biennial Narrative Report" and Part B: "Response to Previous Review." New programs developed and changes since the 1996 program are described under the following categories: administrative; faculty (ladder, adjunct, visiting); academic programs (Master of Library and Information Science [MLIS], Ph.D. in Library and Information Science, undergraduate program, continuing education and professional development); the MLIS portfolio; internships; and instructional resources and staffing. (AEF)

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Biennial Narrative Report to the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation Fall 1998

Department of Library and Information Science

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Submitted by
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Part A: Biennial Narrative Report

This report covers the period 1996-1998 (academic years 1996-97 and 1997-98). We were last reviewed in 1996-97 under the 1992 *Standards*. This report focuses on activities of the Department since that review as well as a response to recommendations which were made in the review.

The Department of Library and Information Science has moved forward to implement programs which we described in our 1996 program presentation. Additionally, we are developing some new programs as well. These activities fall under the following categories:

- **Administrative**
- **Faculty (Ladder, Adjunct, and Visiting)**
- **Academic Programs**
- **The MLIS Portfolio**
- **Internships**
- **Instructional Resources and Staffing**

Administrative

Since our last report there have been some important leadership changes at the campus as well as the school and department level. Michèle V. Cloonan became Department Chair on July 1, 1997, succeeding Christine L. Borgman, who served as Faculty Chair from July l, 1995 to June 30, 1997. On July 1, 1997, Borgman was named a University of California Presidential Chair in Information Studies, an appointment which carries a five-year term.

In June 1997, Dr. Charles Young retired as Chancellor after 28 years of service. He was succeeded in summer 1997 by Albert Carnesale. Although Chancellor Carnesale has only been at the University for a year--he came to UCLA from Harvard--he has met with our faculty a couple of times. We look forward to working with him more closely.

In summer 1998, Theodore Mitchell, Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, resigned to become Vice President for Programs and Strategic Planning at the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles. Faculty in the Department of Library and Information Science have worked closely with several programs at the Getty over the past decade. We are currently forging new alliances under Ted Mitchell's administration at the Getty. Harold Levine, former Chair, Department of Education, is the Interim Dean. The search for a new dean is under way.

Faculty

We have added three new faculty to our ranks, effective July 1, 1998: Phil Agre, Associate Professor, whose areas of research include social and political aspects of networking technology and organizational changes and technology; Howard Besser, Associate Professor, who specializes in image databases and user interfaces; and, Jonathan Furner, Assistant Professor, whose many interests fall under the general area of information retrieval. (See Attachment 1) Professor Besser will continue his appointment at the School of Information Management and Systems, UC-Berkeley for the year 1998-99.

We now have 14 faculty positions filled, with 2 positions open. This is an increase of 2 FTE since our 1996-97 COA review. When Chris Borgman was Department Chair, she negotiated 2 new positions. We intend to work with the three new faculty on curriculum revision this academic year (1998-99) and so we will not be hiring until next year, when we know better what our needs will be.

Since the 1996-97 academic year, we have had three visiting professors: Velimir Srica from the economics faculty at the University of Zagreb; Ann O'Brien, from the Department of Information and Library Studies, Loughborough University; and Peiling Wang, from the University of

Tennessee. Additionally, we have continued to hire local professionals as adjuncts. (See Attachment 2)

Academic Programs

The Department of Library and Information Science offers two academic degree programs, plus courses in two non-degree curricula.

- Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS)

Since the merger with the Graduate School of Education in 1994, the MLIS program has decreased in size from about 90-95 students entering our program per year to about 60-65 per year. We continue to recruit students with undergraduate or graduate degrees in any discipline or profession. Our graduates are placed as librarians, archivists, and information practitioners in all types of libraries, museums, and archives, as specialists in information technology, and, as independent information practitioners. Over the past two years a number of our graduates have also entered the entertainment industry, finding jobs as digital asset managers.

In this academic year we will be reviewing and revising our MLIS curriculum. (See Attachment 3, UCLA General Catalog Description.)

- Ph.D. in Library and Information Science

The doctoral program, established in 1977, has increased in size and focus since the 1994 creation of the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies. We now admit around 8 students per year. The students come from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds. In 1996-97 we substantially revised our doctoral program.

- Undergraduate Program

Although the Department does not offer an undergraduate minor in library and information science, we continue to offer 4 sections per year of 110 "Information Resources and Libraries." This year we redesigned the course. Formerly, it was intended as a service course, but now it also introduces undergraduates to the core issues of our field. Upper-division undergraduates may take some graduate-level courses in the Department with permission of the instructor. In summer 1998 we offered a course on intellectual property issues which was open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

- Continuing Education and Professional Development

The Department has always devoted a small amount of resources to continuing education and professional development in the form of a post-MLIS advanced certificate (one year of study beyond the MLIS) and offering admissions to MLIS courses through concurrent enrollment. We are current evaluating the post-MLIS program and will not accept any students into it in the 1999-2000 academic year.

The Department offers the Friday Forum series for practitioners, particularly from public and school libraries. These are half-day or full-day courses. The curriculum is driven by the needs of the community.. (See Attachment 4, for Fall 1998 offerings.)

Finally, the Department runs summer institutes. In the past institutes have been held for public and academic librarians. In summer 1999, we will hold an institute designed for archivists and museum professions as well. Entitled, "Museums, Libraries, and Archives: Summer Institute for Knowledge Sharing," UCLA is co-sponsoring the Institute with the Getty Center. (Attachment 5)

The MLIS Portfolio

During the year of the COA accreditation, we designed a portfolio component of our MLIS program to replace the comprehensive exams. That program is now fully implemented (see Attachment 6 for description). One unanticipated benefit of this program is the active role of library, archive, and information science professionals in the process. Each student presents his or her portfolio to a panel of two faculty members and one professional. As a result, professionals are learning more about our curriculum and our students, and we are receiving more consistent input from the professional community.

Internships

We continue to expand our internship program into new areas. We currently have nearly 250 sites. We described this program at length in our 1996 COA program presentation.

Instructional Resources and Staffing

We have continued to develop our Multimedia and Technology Lab (MIT), extending and updating equipment, document, and print and multimedia resources. We currently employ two full-time librarians: Keri Botello, Director of the MIT Lab and Internship Coordinator, and a Digital Resources Librarian. We are currently filling the recently vacated DRL position. We also have a full-time Programmer/Analyst, Chris Chandler, who reports to Keri Botello.

Part B: Response to Previous Review

The May 1997 *External Review Panel Report* did not make specific recommendations, but it did express concern about the possible long-term effects of budget cuts and open faculty lines. In the past sixteen months, we have made important headway in both of these areas. We acquired 2 new faculty lines, and hired 3 new faculty members in the 1997-98 academic year. $200,000 was restored to our budget which had been cut significantly after our 1994 merger with Education. The $200,000 is not enough money to significantly expand our current programs; therefore, the current Chair has identified fundraising as her number one priority. Some headway has already been made. In 1997, the France Clarke Sayers Annual Lecture series in children's literature became fully endowed. In spring 1998, the Seymour Lubetzky Fellowship was established in honor of Professor Lubetzky's 100th birthday. The Lubetzky Fellowship was started with generous gifts from Professor Lubetzky, his family, friends, and former students. Alumni giving was also up last year.

These past two years have been particularly productive and rich. We confidently look forward to the next two years.